

March 23, 1976

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Read Schmit amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature I have offered this amendment and it replaces LB929 that I had before the appropriations committee. It provides for the purchase of the Kennedy College properties for use as the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. I think that we are all aware of the fact that at the present time we do have three sites in Nebraska that are being used as homes for veterans. The predominance of veteran population is located in eastern Nebraska and that population has not been taken care of. There is ample evidence in the Department of Veterans Affairs that the population will grow in the next few years and that we can expect the citizenry in this area of the state to demand facilities for a veterans home. There has been some interest in the establishment of that home in the City of Omaha. I have no quarrel with that except that I feel, and I think that a number of members of the Legislature agree with me that the home could more properly be located in a more rural setting, that these gentlemen who had served their country and who are in retirement could well live out their years in a small community such as Wahoo, and it would be to the benefit of the individual veteran. It is mid-way between Lincoln and Omaha, the site of the Kennedy college is a very good one. The Kennedy College site is within walking distance of downtown and the individual veteran would be afforded many of the advantages of small town life, the people that wanted to visit the veteran would be able to drive to the community and the parking would be no problem, there would be no matter of safety of the individual veteran or of the citizen who came to visit him. I would strongly urge your adoption of the amendment, and if the amendment is adopted, I have another proposal which will provide for a program statement that to be drawn that will support the amendment and I urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would like to ask Senator Schmit a question. Will they give it to us free?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, they will not Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: That is all that I want to know, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further...well Senator Dworak wanted to talk about this. Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: A question of Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, do you have any idea as to what the cost of renovating this building and putting it back into shape, or getting it into shape for functional use would be?